Mordernisation of IISCO

768. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is at present any proposal under Government's consideration for the Modernisation of the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) : and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in the implementation of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Government could not sanction any scheme so far for modernisation of IISCO due to financial constraints. The options available for achieving the modernisation in a cost and time-effective manner including private participation are being examined and a decision in the matter will be taken in due course.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

769. SHRI N.E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Capital restructuring plan for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has been cleared by Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to improve the performance of the plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme for restructuring the capital base of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (VSP) envisages the following :

(i) Conversion of Government of India's loans to the extent of Rs. 1184 crores into equity capital.

(i) Conversion of Government of India's loans to the extent of Rs. 1185 crores into 7% Non-cumulative Preference Shares redeemable at the end of 10 years.

(iii) Conversion of interest due on Government of India's loans amounting to Rs. 791 crores, into interest free loan for a period of seven years.

(iv) Conversion of Government of India's loan received after Ist August, 1992 for the year 1992-93, into 7% Non-Cumulative Shares redeemable at the end of 10 years from the date of allotment.

(v) Waiver of penal interest on Government of India loans.

(c) Action is being taken to implement the scheme which will improve the long term financial performance of the Company. VSP management has also initiated remedial measures to increase the capacity utilisation of production facilities. The plant is expected to achieve 100% production by 1996-97.

Closing of Mini-Steel plants in south

770. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the mini-steel plants in the south have already been closed down and some more are on the verge of closure ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the mini-steel plants going into 'red' ; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to help this secondary steel sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL

(SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Out of 30 commissioned mini steel plants (Electric Arc Furnance units) in the Souh, 10 units are reported to have closed due to various reasons including sluggish demand, financial/managerial problems, etc. The industry has also represented about the increase in customs duty on steel melting scrap and increase in excise duty on end products affecting the mini-steel plants adversely.

(c) Proposals received from the industry are under the consideration of Government.

Crises in sponge iron industry

771. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that sponge iron industry is facing d fficulty due to cheap import of scraps ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are takihg to save the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The international price of steel melting scrap has gone up sharply in recent months. This has increased the landed cost of imported scrap in the country by around Rs. 1200/- per tonne. Government have alo reduced the duty on import of ron ore pellets for the sponge iron industry.

इस्पात उद्योग के समक्ष पेश आ रही समस्याएं

772. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या इस्पात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वर्ष 1992–93 में बिजली की कमी के कारण इस्पात के उत्पादन में 29.7 प्रतिशत की गिरावट आई;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस्पात उद्योग के विकास और प्रगति में अन्य कौन-कौन सी समस्याएं पेश आ रही हैं; और

(ग) इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए सरकार ने क्या प्रयास किए हैं ?

इस्पात मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सन्तोष मोहन देव) : (क) जी, नहीं। देश में 1992–93 के दौरान परिसज्जित इस्पात का उत्पादन 151.00 लाख टन हुआ था, जो 1991–92 में हुए उत्पादन से 5.4 प्रतिशत अधिक है।

(ख) उच्च आदान-लागत, कच्चे माल की घटिया गुणवत्ता, पुरानी प्रचालन प्रक्रियाओं के साथ पुरानी प्रौद्योगिकी ऐसी समस्याएं हैं जिनका इस्पात उद्योग सामना कर रहा है।

(ग) इस्पात उद्योग के विकास के लिए सरकार ने विभिन्न उपाय किए हैं। इन उपायों में निम्नलिखित शामिल हैं :–

– सरकारी क्षेत्र के एकीकृत इस्पात संयंत्रों का आधुनिकीकरण और विस्तार
– निजी क्षेत्र में निवेश को प्रोत्सहित करने के लिए लोहा और इस्पात उद्योग को लाइसेंस-मुक्त कर गया है और नियंत्रण समाप्त कर दिया गया है।

– औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं जिनमें लोहा और इस्पात परियोजनाएं भी शामिल हैं, की व्यवहार्यता में सुधार करने के लिए 1993–94 के बजट में परियोजना-आयात पर सीमा शुल्क और वाणिज्यिक ऋणों पर न्यूनतम ब्याज दर में कमी की गई है।

—इस्पात की उत्पादन लागत कम करने के लिए कच्चे माल जैसे रिफैक्ट्रीज और फैरो एलायज पर से सीमा-शुल्क में कमी करना।